



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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RED SNAPPER COMMERCIAL FISHERY IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS WILL OPEN AT NOON, OCTOBER 1, 2006

NOAA Fisheries Service announces the commercial fishery for red snapper in Gulf of Mexico federal waters will open at noon, local time, on October 1, 2006, and will close at noon, local time, on October 10, 2006.

The 2006 Gulf of Mexico commercial red snapper quota is 4.65 million pounds (MP). The commercial fishing season is divided into spring and fall seasons. The spring season began at noon, local time, on February 1, with 3.10 MP available, and the fall season begins at noon, local time, on October 1, with the remainder of the annual quota available. During the spring and fall seasons, fishing will be allowed the first 10 days of each month until the quota is caught. Preliminary landings data for February 1-10, 2006 (415,350 pounds), March 1-10, 2006 (427,361), April 1-10, 2006 (353,226), May 1-10, 2006 (332,670), June 1-10, 2006 (249,610), July 1-10, 2006 (288,758), August 1-10, 2006 (326,583), and September 1-10, 2006 (132,912) totaled 2,526,470 pounds of red snapper landed. Therefore, 573,530 pounds remain in the spring quota, which will be added to the fall quota of 1.55 MP (2,123,530 pounds total).

The operator of a vessel with a valid reef fish permit and a Class 1 or Class 2 red snapper license having red snapper aboard must have landed and sold such red snapper before noon, local time, on October 10, 2006. The minimum size for the commercial fishery is 15 inches total length.

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

In 2007 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, celebrates 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.